



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS
The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of
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Division of Emergency Services
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REGIONAL EM DIRECTORS MEET IN N.H. - The N.H. Bureau of Emergency Management hosted the Tri-States Directors' meeting in Hanover on March 22nd. These meetings are held quarterly by emergency management directors from New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts, primarily to discuss issues related to nuclear power facilities. The other New England states and New York State are also invited. This meeting included more than 50 representatives from the federal government (Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Department of Homeland Security's Preparedness Directorate and FEMA), the three state governments and Seabrook Station and Vermont Yankee nuclear power plants. Updates were provided by all agencies in attendance, including upcoming drills and exercises, changes in any procedures and general collaboration and cooperation in efforts of mutual concern. Discussions centered on security events, notification procedures of emergency management agencies and possible need to change Emergency Classification Levels and Emergency Action Levels.

The Tri-State Directors' meeting was followed at the same location by a directors' meeting of the Northeast States Emergency Consortium (NESEC). Emergency management directors from New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts were joined by their counterparts from Maine, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey, as well as representatives from FEMA Regions I and II and the American Red Cross. Important topics of discussion included redefining of the American Red Cross role and that of ESF 6 (Mass Care and Shelter) in the National Response Plan and the implications for state and local Emergency Operations Plans. Also included were presentations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Cold Regions Research and Engineering Labs on ice storms and global warming, an update on the International Association of Emergency Managers and discussions of the upcoming hurricane season, the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP), the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) and earthquake scenarios for the Northeast.

In early April, representatives of BEM will be attending a meeting on catastrophic planning, continuity of government and continuity of operations.

VOLUNTEER NH! TO ASSUME VOLUNTEER AND DONATION ROLE –

Volunteer New Hampshire!, the state's volunteer coordination entity, has taken over the role of managing volunteers and donation during disasters as outlined in the state Emergency Operations Plan. The arrangement was formalized during a ceremony on March 26th at the Holiday Inn in Concord. Emergency Services Director Bruce Cheney told the attendees that, "Emergency Support Function 15 (Donations and Volunteers) is an integral function within the Emergency Operations Center and critical to the overall response and recovery efforts of a local or state disaster. Over the last couple of years, Volunteer NH! and Citizen Corps have grown and emerged to be viewed as the right fit to oversee this vital function"

Along with the responsibility of ESF 15, Volunteer NH! will also provide a new direction and leadership to Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) which was previously lead by Salvation Army Major Robert Kountz. Major Kountz, Cleo Castonguay of the St. Vincent DePaul Society and Gary Okula of the American Radio Relay League, were recognized with awards by VNH! for their continued support and contributions to VOAD.

Director Cheney, representing Governor Lynch, presented VNH! Chairman Marianne Fortescue with a commendation commending Volunteer NH! and New Hampshire Citizen Corps for coordinating and identifying volunteers, organizations and resources during local and state emergencies.

HOUSE PASSES BILL TO ACQUIRE FLOOD-DAMAGED PROPERTY –

The New Hampshire House of Representatives has passed and sent to the Senate a bill that would allow the state to acquire property damaged in last October's flooding. The measure, which passed the House on a voice vote on March 22nd, would appropriate \$4.5 million to purchase property in Alstead, Acworth, Langdon and Walpole, the communities which suffered the greatest damage in the flood. The bill would establish a commission to determine appropriate public uses of flood-damaged properties acquired by the state. Property owners would be compensated based on fair market value of their property before the flood, minus any financial aid or insurance payments they received. No one would be required to sell property to the state under the legislation.

KAZAKHSTAN DELEGATION GETS LESSON IN DEMOCRACY –

More than a dozen high-ranking emergency management officials from the former Soviet Central Asian Republic of Kazakhstan toured New Hampshire in March, meeting with officials here and getting a sense of how emergency preparedness is organized. The eight-day visit was sponsored by the Defense Department's *Partners for Peace* program. "We have visited a number of departments in New Hampshire and the (Seabrook) nuclear power plant and learned how they would respond in an emergency," General Major Dikhanbek Satylganov, told the Associated Press. The general is the head of Kazakhstan's civil defense agency and led the delegation.

In addition to Seabrook, the delegation toured Department of Safety and National Guard facilities and the State House. They also met with Governor Lynch, Senate President Ted Gatsas and House Speaker Doug Scamman. Since 2002, *Partners for Peace* has brought delegations to New Hampshire from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Tajikistan, Belarus, Macedonia, Russia and Latvia.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE SET FOR JUNE – “Local Emergency Preparedness: Applying Knowledge to Practice” is the title of the second statewide emergency preparedness conference, scheduled for Monday June 12th at the Courtyard by Marriott and Grappone Center in Concord. The focus of this year’s program will be on practical skills that emergency responders from state, local and private sector agencies can apply to their work. A tabletop is planned on Emergency Operations Center activities as well as workshops on the National Incident Management System, pandemic flu, medical surge and volunteer management.

The conference is sponsored by the state departments of Safety and Health and Human Services, N.H. Health Officers Association, Community Health Institute and the N.H. Hospital Association. Registration information will be made available soon. For more information, call 603-573-3306.

EXERCISES SCHEDULED AROUND THE STATE – New Hampshire emergency personnel will be busy in the coming month with a variety of exercises and training workshops. Merrimack has a tabletop on April 5th and Derry has a workshop on April 12th. Both efforts are preliminary to town-wide functional exercises to be held later in the spring. Berlin and Colebrook have scheduled a joint functional exercise on April 29th. And the two-day Seabrook Station Ingestion Pathway Graded Exercise will be held April 11th and 12th.

HIGH WINDS TAKE OUT POWER – An usual weather system moved into New Hampshire on Friday, February 17th, bringing sustained winds of more than 30 mph and gusts of close to 70 mph. The winds blew down trees and branches, blocking roads and knocking out power to about 100,000 utility customers around the state. The National Weather Service offices in Gray, Maine, and Taunton, Mass., provided briefings for Emergency Management staff and posted high wind advisories for the public. The state Emergency Operations Center was open for most of the weekend. More than a dozen New Hampshire communities opened shelters or EOCs. Service to some utility customers was not restored until Monday. No injuries or serious damage were reported.

VERMONT YANKEE TO INCREASE POWER BY 20 PERCENT – The Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, owned and operated by Entergy Corporation, is in the process of increasing its production by 20 percent, to about 640 megawatts. Plant operators began increasing VY’s output at the beginning of March after receiving approval from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, following 29 months of review by NRC technical staff. The increase had earlier been approved by the Vermont Public Service Board. The plant’s output is being increased in stages. It has been upped by five percent thus far and is staying at that level while engineers analyze its operation.